

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-9, and 11 are amended. No claims are added or canceled hereby. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-11 will remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action dated February 24, 2005, the Examiner stated that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on April 15, 2004, failed to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609 because the IDS lacked a list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office. In particular, it appears from the papers returned to the Applicant that the Examiner did not consider copies of two of the applications brought to the Examiner's attention: (1) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/378,691, and (2) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/739,948. The Applicant has reviewed its file and has determined that copies of these applications were, in fact, submitted to the Office. Accordingly, the Applicant believe that the IDS did comply with the rule.

Having addressed the Examiner's point with respect to the IDS, the Applicant also recognizes that the Examiner considered both applications by listing their publication numbers on the PTO-892 appended to the Office Action. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the point raised by the Examiner is now moot. The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for consideration of these two references.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Quiles et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,652,189). Claims 1-7 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Quon et al. (U.S. Patent

Application Publication No. 2004/0151595). For several reasons, the Applicant respectfully disagrees with each of these rejections. Among them, the Applicant respectfully points out that Quon et al. is assigned to the same assignee, Tokyo Electron Limited, as the present application. Accordingly, the reference cannot be applied as prior art against the Applicant.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also indicated that claims 8-10 were objected to but would be considered allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

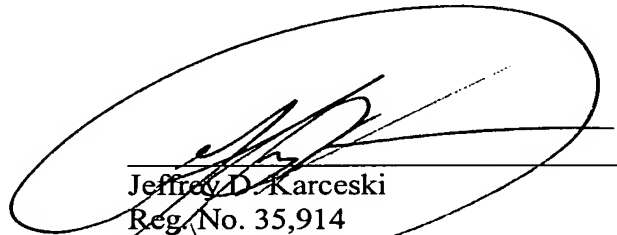
In an effort not to delay the prosecution of this application, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations formerly recited by claim 8. In so doing, since claims 2-10 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10 are patentable over the references cited. Similarly, the Applicant has amended claim 11 to incorporate the limitations formerly recited by claim 8. As such, the Applicant also respectfully submits that claim 11 has been placed into a condition for allowance.

The Applicant also respectfully points out that claims 7 and 8 have been amended so that the language of these two claims is not inconsistent with the language of the claim 1. Moreover, since claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 1, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7 and 8 are patentable at least for the same reason(s) that claim 1 is now patentable over the references cited.

Each of the rejections having been addressed, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not otherwise accounted for, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-3975 and refer to Order No. 071469/0306171.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP
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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval. The signature appears to be "Jeffrey D. Karceski".

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